

57. (Newly Added) A method of producing printed clean edge media, comprising the steps of:

forming a single-sheet construction printable sheet divided into a plurality of sheet portions;

said forming step including forming at least one substantial-cut line in the single-sheet construction printable sheet;

wherein the at least one substantial-cut line defines at least one of the perimeter edges of at least one of the sheet portions;

wherein the at least one substantial-cut line extends through a substantial portion of a thickness of the single-sheet construction printable sheet thereby forming at least one thin uncut intact sheet portion;

passing the single-sheet construction printable sheet through a printer or copier and thereby printing indicia on the sheet portions; and

after said printing, separating the sheet portions along the at least one substantial-cut line to form at least in part a plurality of individual printed media;

wherein the at least one thin uncut intact sheet portion of each of the sheet portions collectively comprise the sole means for keeping the sheet portions together during said passing step and thereby maintain the integrity of the single-sheet construction printable sheet until said separating step.

REMARKS

In the above-mentioned Office Action, claims 1-56 were rejected as being indefinite, claims 1 and 41 were rejected as anticipated by Bishop, and claims 1-54 were rejected as obvious over DE 42.40.825 in view of Bishop. Responsive thereto, claims 1-56 have been canceled and new claim 57 added.

Claim 57 describes the invention as including that the sheet is a single sheet construction, that at least one substantial-cut line is formed in the sheet to define at least one of the perimeter edges of a sheet portion, and that the thin uncut intact sheet portions formed by the substantial-cut line (see FIG. 6 under 170) comprise the sole means for keeping the sheet portions together

as the sheet passes through the printer or copier. Referring to the original disclosure, the substantial-cut line can extend between approximately 70 and 98 percent the way through the sheet, or approximately 90 percent, or between approximately 93 and 95 percent.

Bishop shows a composite sheet construction and also does not show substantial-cut lines. The reference to scoring refers to densification or indenting and not "substantial cutting," and the reference to die-cutting refers to through-cutting (and not substantial-cutting), as would be known to those skilled in the art.

Eizner shows using a backing sheet or a matrix of backing strips to hold the sheet portions together, and not thin uncut intact sheet portions.

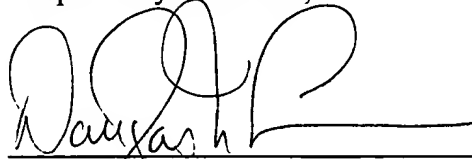
In contrast, the present invention uses a single-sheet construction and does not use a backing sheet or backing strips. It does not have the extra expense of the backing sheet or backing strips or a composite sheet construction, or the extra step of removing the backing sheet or strips after the sheet has passed through the printer or copier. Additionally, the substantial-cut line embodiment of this invention is a significant improvement over the prior art perforated sheets. Since the eye tends to focus on the top front edges of the cards, the present cards appear to be more cleanly cut than cards made from perforated sheets. This can be understood by comparing the edge 114 in FIG. 2 with the clean edge adjacent reference numeral 170 in FIG. 6.

In response to the Notice of Informal Application, please renumber the sheets of claims that begin with claims 50 and 56 as sheets 12 and 13, respectively, and the Abstract as sheet 14.

Accordingly, issuance of the Notice of Allowance is in order and is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues, please telephone counsel to seek to resolve them.

If any additional fees are due with this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account Number 16-2230.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas N. Larson", written over a horizontal line.

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